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(54) Improvement in plastic tank for washing machine

(57) Improvement in plastic tanks for washing machines of the kind of the tanks that wrap the drum of lodging of the clothes that are going to be washed, so that the frontal side of the said tank is open and its back side or base is closed, being endowed of a central conduit for the pass of the spindle of the drum, with the interposition of the corresponding bearings, so that the tank (3) has the means of reinforcement relative to the tubular body (1) made of plastic material that is crossed by the spindle of turn of the drum, and the means of fixing of the disassembled body of reinforcement to the body plastic tank.

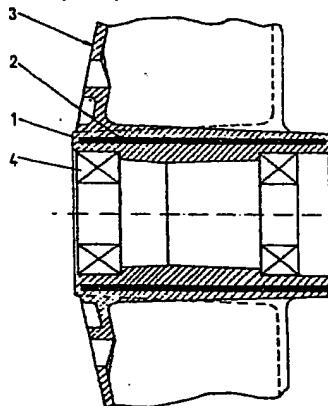


FIG. 1

Description**OBJECT OF THE INVENTION.**

As is expressed in the title of the presents report, the following invention consists of a perfected plastic tank for washing machine, so that the improvements are based on the execution of the lodging of the bearings into the washing machine, being made of the same plastic material than the tank. This lodging can be materialized both in the same process of manufacture and through an independent body which will have to be fixed to the tank and must be disassembled.

In this way and bearing in mind that the plastics under load become deformed, being this deformation bigger when the temperature increases, it is very difficult to materialize the lodging of the same material than the tank of the bearings. Because of this reason, it is tried to make a tank of plastic material with a lodging -of the same material than the whole of the tank- for the bearings so that these bearings could be changed in an independent way in regard to the tank.

FIELD OF APLICATION.

The improvements described on the present report can be applied for the tanks of plastic material that are incorporated to the automatic washing machines of frontal load whose drum, in relationship to its internal base, stays joined to the corresponding spindle of turn that transmits to it the revolving movements from the corresponding motor of actioning to carry out the operations for the washing of the clothes that are contained by the drum whose lateral surface has some holes and that is contained by the tank.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

With the pass of the time, the tough task of washing has suffered a great evolution, because of the appearance of the current automatic washing machines, so that the current way of washing is different than the previous ways. These automatic washing machines also have suffered a sequence of changes; one of the more important changes has been the incorporation of the tank of plastic material, being the replacement of the tank of steel.

By the other side, the plastics under load become deformed and very much with the increase of the temperature. Bearing in mind this premise, and also the efforts of physical, mechanical and dynamic nature that are exercised on the tank and the necessary temperature to heat the water for an effective process of washing, the lodging of the bearings for those automatic washing machines that have the tank made of plastic material is materialized by a metallic socket.

In this way, the metallic socket is incorporated in the own process of manufacture of the tank of plastic material for its following assembly into the corresponding

washing machine, lodging the bearings for allowing the turn of the drum. The unsuitable is the high cost of the socket because it requires a very precise mechanism for being incorporated to the plastic tank.

5 However, the main unsuitable for the washing machines with plastic tank, emerges when the bearings are deteriorated. This deterioration generally implies the deterioration of the tracks of bearing of the socket and in this case all the whole formed by the tank, the bearings and the socket must be changed, with the high cost that it represents.

10 If only the deteriorated bearings are changed and not all the whole, the new bearings make some tracks in the metallic socket in a short period of time, so that the only solution will be changing the whole formed by the tank, the bearings and the socket.

15 Because of these problems, it is tried to obtain a lodging for the bearings in the plastic tank, made of the same material than the tank, so that the mechanism of 20 lodging for the bearings is independent in regard to the tank and interchangeable, so that the cited problems of post-sale are avoided.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

25 According to the said in the background of the invention, it is tried to obtain a plastic lodging for the bearings of the spindle of the drum, so that the cited lodging is part of the own plastic tank or however, it is an 30 independent part of the tank knowing that the plastics under load became deformed, being bigger this deformation because of the increase of the temperature. For this reason, it is necessary to bear in mind the water is heated at high temperatures.

35 So, the developments that are introduced in the plastic tank for washing machines, are based on the incorporation of a metallic support in relationship to the plastic tubular body of the tank that stays in relationship to the pass of the spindle of turn of the drum with the 40 interposition of the corresponding bearings.

45 In this way the conventional metallic socket that is utilized for the lodging of the bearings, which has a high cost because of its precise mechanism and important dimensional requirements, is replaced by a simple metallic brace, which does not need any mechanism neither has dimensional requirements. This support can be obtained through a standard tube -with weld and cut- which represents an important economic saving.

50 The metallic brace is incorporated to the plastic tubular body of the tank that stays in relationship to the spindle of turn of the drum. This support stays incorporated in the own process of manufacture of the plastic material so that the lodging or location of the bearings is defined by its internal surface.

55 A sequence of possible variants emerge from this basic idea. Furthermore, they represent an improvement with respect to this idea. In this way, a variant of manufacture consists on the manufacture of a plastic tank that is obtained by a mould with an overinjected

socket in relationship to the tubular body that stays in relationship to the pass of the spindle of turn, and which is made of metallic material -aluminium or zamak- and has a threaded zone where a threaded socket is threaded. This socket will have inserted the two bearings and the catch, being easily replaced by other.

In this execution, the plastic tank is made so that the tubular body, which acts as a wrapper of the spindle of pass of the drum, has a little cone so that when the plastic piece, which contains the pair of bearings and that is disposed with the interposition of the threaded piece of aluminum or zamak, is introduced then it penetrates, exercising a slight pressure.

Other variant of manufacture consists of the execution of a plastic tank with the surrounding body of the spindle of pass of the drum, with a little cone and with a final threaded that is obtained from a mould.

Starting on here, the surrounding body where the bearings will be placed is defined by a tubular body in whose inside the bearings will be placed. This body is endowed of a coil in relationship to its inside extreme and over its external surface, so that a conical socket stays between the said tubular body and the body of the plastic tank, being made it of zamak or aluminum and being assembled before the tubular body where the bearings will be placed.

In this way, the conical socket that is made of aluminum or zamak has not special requirements, so that its cost is smaller. Because of its structure, when the tubular surrounding body where the bearings are placed is threaded around the coil of the own wrapper of the tank, a perfect anchorage is realized without any damage of the tubular plastic body where the bearings are placed because of the existence of the reinforcement of the conical socket made of aluminum or zamak.

This execution presents a simple modification which is based on the execution of the tubular wrapper of the tank without any coil, supporting the conical socket of aluminium or zamak and the plastic tubular body where the bearings are placed, so that the coil is supported in the internal extreme in relationship to its external surface for realizing the fixing of the same through a false nut that will stay disposed in the back part of the tank.

Depending on the technical needs and the possible costs of manufacture, a new variant of execution emerges. This variant departs from a plastic tank like the one that we have seen where the tubular body is endowed in relationship to its back internal part of a final coil that is obtained in the own process of manufacture of the plastic tank so that a simple socket made of zamak or aluminium is incorporated. This socket is endowed, in relationship to its internal surface, of a coil for its fixing to the plastic tank and the bearings are placed in this socket.

Likewise, this solution admits a variant of execution in which the body of the tank has not any coil in its back part and the fixing of the socket of aluminum or zamak will be realized by a plastic or metallic nut that is

inserted in a indisassembled way and with and antitum tumbler which will hold the socket.

In order to complement the description which is made hereinafter and for the purpose of providing a better understanding of its characteristics, the present descriptive report is accompanied by a set of drawings, in whose figures the most significant details of the invention are represented.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DESIGNS.

Figure 1.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body of the plastic tank where the bearings are placed for the pass of the spindle of turn of the drum, in which can be observed the conventional metallic socket that is incorporated in the own process of manufacture of the tank so that it stays wrapping and reinforcing the plastic wrapper that has not much thick walls.

Figure 2.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body of the plastic tank that has a slight conical form and is obtained from a mould with a socket of plastic material that is overinjected and whose back extreme is threaded so that the plastic socket, where the pair of bearings are placed, is fixed.

Figure 3.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body of the plastic tank with its back part that is threaded according to its internal surface where there are a conical socket made of aluminum or zamak, and a tubular plastic body where the bearings are placed and that is endowed of a coil in the external surface of its back extreme so that it allows its fixing to the body of the tank.

Figure 4.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body which covers the plastic tank that is pierced by the spindle of turn of the drum and lodges the socket made of aluminum or zamak and the plastic tubular body where the bearings are placed so that it can be fixed through a false nut that will be inserted in the back part of the tank because it is endowed of a coil in relationship to the external surface of its back extreme.

Figure 5.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body of the plastic tank with its back part that is threaded according to its external surface. A socket made of zamak or aluminium is placed in the cited body so that the bearings are placed in the said socket. The external surface of its back extreme is endowed of a coil for its threaded union to the tank.

Figure 6.-It shows a sectional view of the tubular body of the plastic tank with the socket made of aluminium or zamak where the bearings are placed and that is endowed of a coil, in the external surface of its back extreme for its fixing through a false nut made of plastic or metallic material that is inserted in the tank.

55 DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT.

In view of the above cited figures and in accordance with the used numbering, we can observe how the surrounding tubular body (1), that is made of plastic mate-

rial and pierced by the spindle of turn of the drum of the washing machine, is endowed of a metallic tubular brace (2) that is incorporated during the own process of manufacture of the plastic tank (3).

In the internal side of the tubular body, the pair of bearings (4) which allow the pass of the spindle of the drum and its turn in regard to the plastic tank, will be assembled.

In this way, the metallic brace (2) has not any dimensional requirements so that can be obtained through a standard tube -with weld and cut- that allows the elimination of the conventional metallic brace which has a very precise mechanism. Thus, there is a considerable economic saving.

In this way, the tubular body (1) lodges the bearings (4) so that there is not any deformation not even because of the increase of the temperature caused by the warming of the water during the process of washing.

Starting from this first idea, a set of possible variants emerge so that they allow the incorporation of an interchangeable element which can be replace by a new element if the bearings are deteriorated without having to change the whole tank as it usually happens.

Thus, the tank (3) made of plastic material can be obtained with the tubular body (1), in relationship to the one that is crossed by the spindle of the drum, being obtained from a mould and with a slight conical form, and with an overinjected socket (5) made of metallic material -aluminium or zamak- that is endowed of a threaded zone (6) -placed in its back part- where a plastic socket (7) is fixed. This socket (7) is also endowed of a threaded zone (8) for its fixing and it lodges the pair of bearings and the catch. Moreover, this socket is replaceable.

By the other hand, the tank (3) made of plastic material can be obtained through the tubular body (1), in relationship to the one that is crossed by the spindle of the drum in its back part, being defined a coil (5) that is obtained starting from the own mould, and the body (6), that is made of plastic material and lodges the bearings (4), will be join to the plastic tank through a coil with the interposition of a socket (11) made of aluminium or zamak and with a slight conical form, so that when the plastic body (10) is assembled, then this socket acts like a perfect brace.

This socket (11) will be previously assembled to the plastic tubular body (10) and it has not any special dimensional requirements so that it can go out from the mould without any specific complications, being its cost minimum.

In this way, the plastic tubular body (10) lodges the pair of bearings (4). Moreover, it is made so that, in relationship to the external surface of its back base, it has a coil (12) for its union to the body of the tank because this tank is made with a coil (9) in its back extreme of its tubular body, being this coil (9) obtained from the own mould.

This described execution presents a simple variant in which the tubular body (1), in relationship to the one

that is crossed by the spindle of the drum, does not present any coil while it maintains the socket (11) made of zamak or aluminium and with a slight conical form, and the plastic tubular body (10) where the pair of bearings (4) are placed and whose external surface of its back base presents the coil (12) so that its fixing is materialized by a posterior nut (13) that is joined to the back part of the tank (3).

In this way, in both executions the metallic socket (11) that has a slight conical form, acts like a brace and the tubular body (10) made of plastic material, lodges the 3 pair of bearings in its inside, doing a perfect fixing when the body is threaded as a consequence of the structure of the socket (11) that acts like a wedge.

Other variant of execution is based on the manufacture of the plastic tank (3) with its tubular body (1), that is crossed by the spindle of the drum, which is endowed of a coil (9) in its back internal part so that it is threaded to a tubular body (14), made of zamak or aluminium, which is endowed of a coil (15), in the external surface of its back extreme, that joins it to the plastic tank (3). The tubular body (14) lodges the pair of bearings (4) in its inside.

Likewise, this execution presents a small variant maintaining the tubular body (14) made of zamak or aluminium that lodges the pair of bearings (4) and that is endowed of a coil (15), in relationship to the external surface of its back extreme, so that the tubular body (1) of the plastic tank (3), that is crossed by the spindle of the drum, has not any coil so that the fixing is did by a plastic or metallic nut (16) that is inserted in the tank (3) in a indissassembled way and with an antitum tumbler which will hold the tubular socket (14).

Definitively, the metallic brace that, during the process of manufacture of the tank, becomes engrossed in the own plastic material of the tubular body that is crossed by the spindle of the drum, allows the lodging of the bearings in the own plastic tubular body (1), supporting the efforts that emerge during the process of washing without any problem.

Moreover, it is allowed the change of the bearings if one of them is deteriorated without having to change any other element, with the incorporation of a wrapper or an independent tubular body that is fixed to the own body of the tank, directly or through a nut. This represents an important advantage.

Claims

- 50 1. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, being of the kind of the plastic tanks that wrap the drum where the clothes which are going to be washing are lodging so that the frontal side of the said tank (3) is open and its back side is closed, being endowed of a central conduit for the pass of the spindle of the drum, with the interposition of the corresponding bearings and being characterized because it has the means of reinforcement that are related to the tubular body

(1) which is crossed by the spindle of turn of the drum, and the means of fixing of the disassembled body of reinforcement in regard to the body of the plastic tank.

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2. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first claim and characterized because the means of reinforcement of the plastic tubular body (1) that is crossed by the spindle of the drum and lodges the bearings (4) are defined by a simple socket (2) without any mechanism, so that this socket becomes engrossed the own plastic material during the process of manufacture of the tank (3).

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3. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first claim and characterized because the means of reinforcement, that are independent of the tubular body (1) of plastic material, are defined by a socket (5) that is over-injected in the tubular body (1), which is made of metallic material and is endowed of a threaded zone (6) -in its internal back part- where a plastic socket (7) is threaded, with the back zone (8) also threaded and that lodges the pair of bearings (4).

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4. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first claim and characterized because the independent means of reinforcement of the plastic tubular body (1) are defined by a socket (11) that has a slight conical form and is made of zamak or aluminium which is assembled in the tubular body (1) of the plastic tank (3).

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5. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first and third claims and characterized because the fixing from the socket (11), that has a slight conical form, to the plastic tank (3) is did through an independent tubular body (10) which stays into the said conical socket (11).

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6. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first and fourth claims and characterized because the tubular body (1) of the plastic tank (3) has a coil in its back part.

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7. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first and fourth claims and characterized because the independent tubular body (10), that is lodged in the conical socket (11), is endowed of a coil in the external surface of its back extreme.

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8. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first, fifth and sixth claims and characterized because the fixing of the socket (11) like a wedge, is did when the tubular

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body (1) of the plastic tank (3) is threaded.

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9. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first claim and characterized because the tubular body (1) of the plastic tank (3) presents an internal surface without any coil.

10. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first, third, fourth and eighth claims and characterized because the fixing of the socket (11) of reinforcement is realized by a nut (13) which runs up against the body of the tank and where the internal tubular body (10) of plastic material that lodges the bearings (4) is threaded.

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11. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first claim and characterized because the means of fixing are formed by a tubular body (14) made of zamak or aluminium that is endowed in the external surface of its back extreme of a coil.

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12. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first, fifth and tenth claims and characterized because the fixing from the tubular body (14) made of zamak or aluminium to the tubular body (1) of the tank is realized through the threaded of both bodies between them.

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13. IMPROVEMENT IN PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING MACHINE, according to the first, eighth and tenth claims and characterized because the fixing from the tubular body (14) of reinforcement made of zamak or aluminum to the plastic tank (3), is realized through a nut (16) that is inserted in the plastic tank (3) in a indissassembled way.

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FIG. 1

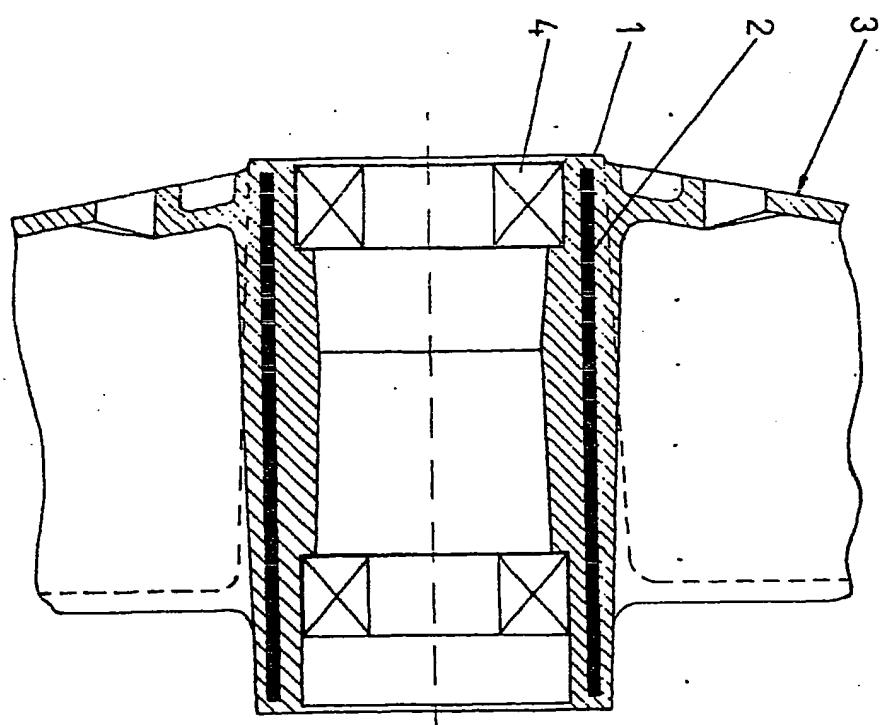
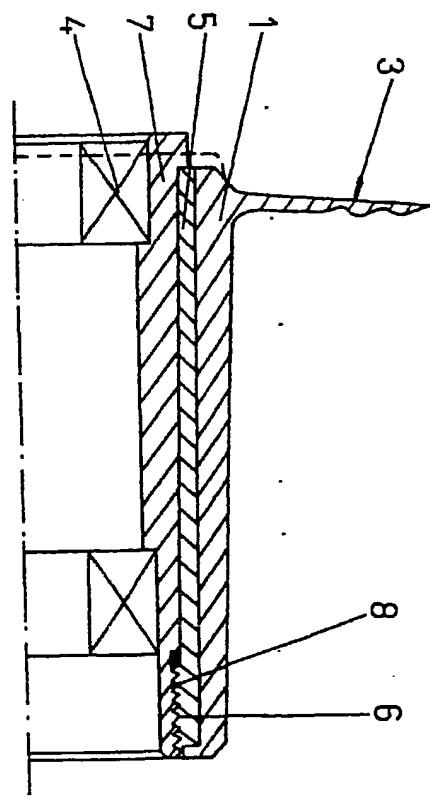


FIG. 2



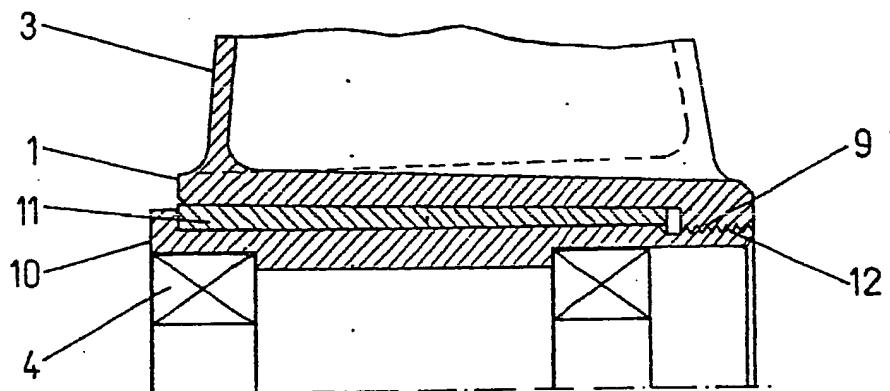


FIG. 3

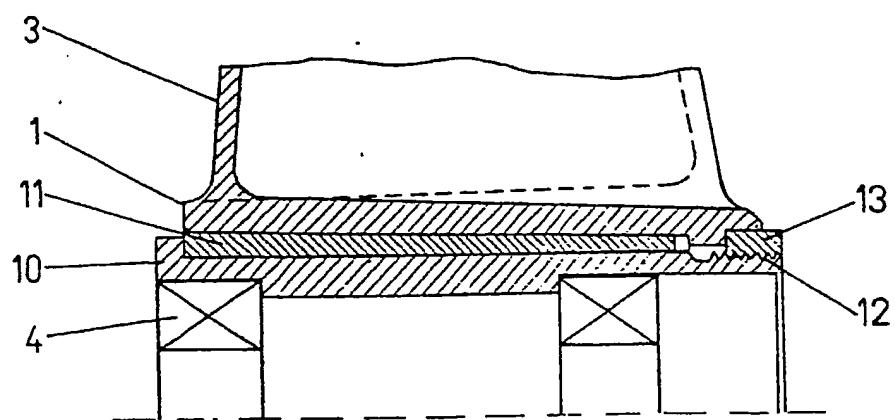


FIG. 4

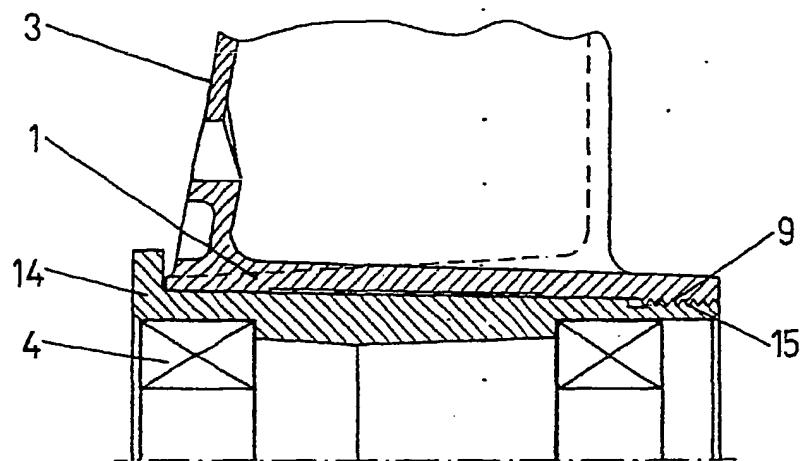


FIG. 5

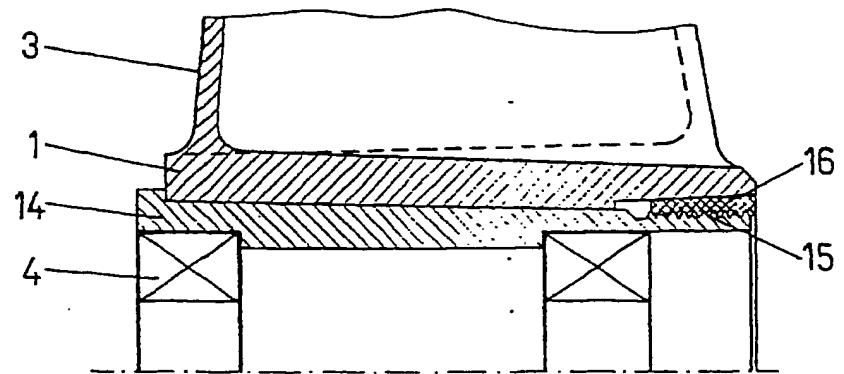


FIG. 6